

these Senators, or in fact any present, have been elected to the Senate? This playful piece of irony created a general laugh, and the Senate adjourned in perfect good humor.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The SPEAKER presented resolutions of the Legislature of Kentucky asking that the bounty land act of September 28, 1850, may be so amended as to extend its provisions to adult children in case there be no widow or minor children; which were referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and ordered to be printed.

Also, resolutions of the same in favor of a grant of lands to the State of Kentucky for educational purposes; which were referred to the Committee on Public Lands and ordered to be printed.

Mr. WALLEY, by consent, presented the memorial of the Governor of Massachusetts and 370 others, members of the Legislature of that State and merchants and others of her citizens, praying Congress, in view of the great scarcity of seamen at the present time, and of the fact that our navy must be manned from our commercial marine, to patronize educating seamen by establishing floating schools in the principal harbors of the United States; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. W. also asked leave to present a memorial from the Mayor of Boston and 293 others, praying that the officers of the army may be confined to their military duties and that civil works may be placed under the control of civilians.

Mr. PHILIPS objected.

Mr. DUNBAR, by consent, from the Committee on Commerce, reported back, with amendments, Senate bill to change the name of the barque Alabama to Mount Vernon; which was read the third time and passed.

## TERRITORIAL BUSINESS.

On motion of Mr. LANE, of Oregon, the House then went into Committee on the Whole on the state of the Union, (Mr. PHILIPS, of Missouri, in the chair), and resumed the consideration of the bill of the House to establish the office of surveyor general of New Mexico, to grant donations to actual settlers therein, and for other purposes.

After a debate of considerable length, the bill, having been first amended in several particulars, was laid aside to be reported to the House with a recommendation that it pass.

The committee then proceeded to consider the bill of the House to amend the act approved September 17, 1852, to create the office of surveyor general of the public lands in Oregon, &c., and also the act amendatory thereof, approved February 19, 1853.

A long discussion ensued, when, without disposing of the bill, the committee rose.

And the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1854.

## IN SENATE.

A message was received from the President of the United States, transmitting a copy of the correspondence between the Secretary of State and the British Minister, and between the Secretaries of State and Treasury, relative to the expediency of further measures for securing the safety, health and comfort of immigrants to the United States by sea.

The President says: "That, as it is probable that further legislation may be necessary for the purpose of securing these desirable objects, I recommend the subject to the consideration of Congress."

## REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES.

Mr. BENJAMIN, from the Committee on Commerce, submitted an adverse report on the memorial of Samuel J. Peters.

Mr. WILLIAMS, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted an adverse report on the memorial of Wm. Field.

Mr. BROWN introduced a bill to provide for carrying the mail of the United States, pending to time; which was referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

## SURVEY IN NORTH CAROLINA.

Mr. BADGER, On the day before yesterday I submitted a resolution, which was agreed to, instructing the Committee on Military Affairs to inquire into the expediency of authorizing the President of the United States to cause an examination and survey to be made of the coal fields in the neighborhood of Deep river, North Carolina, with a view to the establishment of a national foundry and armory. I desire now to present some papers in relation to the subject-matter of the resolution, and to ask their reference to the same committee.

In connection with the subject, I desire to state that within a few years past the coal fields in the North Carolina, which have led to a strong conviction that there are inexhaustible supplies of the best coal of several varieties, and of iron, and the probability that there is a large supply of copper ore also immediately adjacent.

I thought it proper to bring this subject to the attention of the Senate, and ask its reference to the Committee on Military Affairs, with a view that they should consider the propriety of taking the necessary steps by legislation for an examination and survey. I think there is abundant reason for thinking that the coal fields in the North Carolina, which have led to a strong conviction that there are inexhaustible supplies of the best coal of several varieties, and of iron, and the probability that there is a large supply of copper ore also immediately adjacent.

I would add, in connection with this, that the Senate has passed a bill at this session, which has been sent to the other House, making an appropriation for the removal of obstructions in the Cape Fear river, so as to have free communication between the North Carolina and the sea. I do not permit myself to doubt, so soon as in the course of their proceedings they can reach it. The necessity for the measure is so pressing, its propriety so plain, and the duty upon the Government is so obviously imperative, that whenever it comes up it must meet with their approval.

Therefore, I consider that there is an ocean communication near at hand. There is, indeed, one now; but I mean a better and more permanent one. It will be the means of establishing communication between these coal fields and the ocean, and the market of the world. Besides which a short line of railroad will soon, probably, connect them with the Atlantic ocean at the harbor of Beaufort, which, in my opinion, is the best and most valuable harbor for the purpose of navigation and as a harbor of refuge in the Southern States. With these views, I beg to submit herewith copies of two reports, one made by an eminent professor, Professor Jackson, and the other by the State geologist, Professor Emmons, and ask that they be referred to the Committee on Military Affairs. They were so referred.

## ST. LOUIS AND IRON MOUNTAIN RAILROAD.

On motion by Mr. SHIELDS, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill from the House of Representatives granting the right of way to the St. Louis and Iron Mountain Railroad through the arsenal, magazine, and Jefferson barracks tract, and the market of the world. Besides which a short line of railroad will soon, probably, connect them with the Atlantic ocean at the harbor of Beaufort, which, in my opinion, is the best and most valuable harbor for the purpose of navigation and as a harbor of refuge in the Southern States. With these views, I beg to submit herewith copies of two reports, one made by an eminent professor, Professor Jackson, and the other by the State geologist, Professor Emmons, and ask that they be referred to the Committee on Military Affairs. They were so referred.

The Senate then took up the Indigent Inmate bill, and the pending motion of Mr. HUNTER, to print 10,000 additional copies of the message vetoing the same, was agreed to.

Mr. GWIN moved to postpone the further consideration of the subject until Monday week, with the view in the mean time to have the Pacific Railroad bill disposed of.

A protracted discussion ensued, embracing the past and future policy of disposing of the public domain, which was particularly popular for the reason that Mr. HUNTER, CHASE, BAYARD, BROTHMAN, WALKER, SEWARD, BADGER, DAWSON, BELL, CLAYTON, DODGE, of Iowa, PETTIT, WELLS, MALLORY, and others, when the question was taken on the motion of Mr. GWIN to postpone the subject until Monday week, and decided in the affirmative, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Atchison, Badger, Bayard, Bell, Benjamin, Bright, Brown, Butler, Clay, Dixon, Dodge of Wisconsin, Dodge of Iowa, Douglas, Evans, Fitzpatrick, Pratt, Hunter, Johnson, Jones of Iowa, Mallory, Morton, Norris, Pettit, Seward, Shields, Towner, Towner, Wadsworth, and Williams.

NAYS—Messrs. Allen, Brodhead, Chase, Clayton, Cooper, Dawson, Fish, Geyer, Gwin, James of Tennessee, Pratt, Rock, Sebastian, Shields, Stuart, Sumner, Thompson of Kentucky, Walker, and Wells—29.

Mr. GWIN then moved to take up the Pacific Railroad bill, and asked the yeas and nays on the question; and it was decided in the negative, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Bell, Bright, Chase, Clay, Dawson, Dixon, Dodge of Iowa, Douglas, Fox, Geyer, Gwin, James of Tennessee, Pratt, Rock, Seward, Shields, Shields, Sumner, Walker, and Wells—29.

NAYS—Messrs. Allen, Atchison, Benjamin, Brodhead, Brown, Butler, Clay, Clayton, Cooper, Evans, Fitzpatrick, Hunter, Johnson, Mallory, Norris, Pratt, Sebastian, Thompson of Kentucky, Towner, Towner, Wadsworth, and Williams—23.

The Indian Territory bill was then taken up.

Mr. WALKER concluded his remarks in favor of his amendment; when the further consideration of the bill was postponed until to-morrow, and the Senate proceeded to the consideration of Executive business, and, after some time spent therein, adjourned.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. RICHARDSON, from the Committee on Territories, reported a joint resolution authorizing the accounting officers of the Treasury to adjust the claims of the United States commissioners appointed by the Territorial Assembly of Utah to prepare a code of laws; which was read twice and committed.

On motion of Mr. LANE, of Oregon, the House went into Committee on the Whole on the state of the Union, (Mr. PHILIPS, of Missouri, in the chair), and resumed the consideration of the bill of the House to amend the

act, approved September 27, 1852, to create the office of surveyor-general of the public lands in Oregon, &c., and also the act amendatory thereof, approved February 19, 1853.

The bill, after having been amended, was laid aside to be reported to the House, with a recommendation that it pass.

The committee then took up the bill to establish the office of surveyor-general of Utah, to grant donations to actual settlers therein, and for other purposes.

Mr. BERNHISEL, of Georgia, from Utah, moved to strike out of the bill the following:

"And provided further, That the benefits of this act shall not extend to any person who shall now, or at any time hereafter, be the husband of more than one wife."

Mr. HAVEN hoped the committee would adopt the amendment of the delegate from Utah, for the reason that he did not desire Congress, by any legislation, to recognize any such institution as the one which prevailed in that Territory.

Mr. LETCHER thought that the proviso had better be retained. The only objection was that the committee had not applied the same kind of restriction to the grant in the Territory of Utah. He said that he had received \$10,000 a year in the way of salaries. He could not understand why the first section of the bill authorized a salary of three thousand dollars to be paid to men who had a half-dozen wives without any restriction, and why the section under consideration should have a restriction confined to settlers along the river. He said that he was to ascertain the reason of this discrimination—why settlers were to be punished for having more wives than one, and why the officers of the Territory were not only to have the benefit of money, but of women to boot. [Laughter.]

Mr. DAVIS, of Rhode Island, objected to the motion because the committee had refused to strike out the clause which limited the benefit of the bill to whites. He saw no morality in making such a discrimination as this. He would as soon that Utah should allow the United States to settle on its lands any white man as a black man. He said that he had received \$10,000 a year in the way of salaries. He could not understand why the first section of the bill authorized a salary of three thousand dollars to be paid to men who had a half-dozen wives without any restriction, and why the section under consideration should have a restriction confined to settlers along the river. He said that he was to ascertain the reason of this discrimination—why settlers were to be punished for having more wives than one, and why the officers of the Territory were not only to have the benefit of money, but of women to boot. [Laughter.]

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He agreed with the gentlemen from Georgia (Mr. SPRUNGE) and Alabama (Mr. PHILLIPS) that Congress had no right to concern themselves with the morals of the people. He denied that it was legitimate for civil governments to promote moral reform, and that the morals of the people even, holding that the sole legitimate office of Government was to protect persons and property.

But the question arose as to whether this feature of Mormonism did not invade natural rights. He held the right of a man to one wife, and of a woman to one husband, in the language of Holy Writ, God made "male and female," not male and females, or males and female. Those who did not subscribe to that Writ as authority he would refer to the censures, which showed the sexes the world over to be equally divided, one man for one woman and one woman for one man. He contended that as many and as many as the province of maintaining the natural rights of their subjects they were bound to suppress polygamy, and claimed for the Government the same rights over its subjects in the Territories as a State Government had over its subjects.

Mr. DISNEY explained why the clause had been inserted in the bill, and in the course of his remarks stated that there was no statute of the Territory of Utah existing which allowed polygamy as such; but that the statutes of Utah recognized its existence by declaring that wives and children shall be heirs at law, &c.